

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 3, 2010

**Senate Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 72**

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**Introduced by Senator Corbett**  
*(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Garrick)*

February 12, 2010

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Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to Irish American Heritage Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 72, as amended, Corbett. Irish American Heritage Month.

This measure would designate March 2010 as Irish American Heritage Month in honor of the multitude of contributions that Irish Americans have made to the country and state.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Millions of Irish people, faced with severe hardship  
2 due to famine and poverty in their nation, immigrated to the United  
3 States over the last several centuries in search of a more promising  
4 future for themselves and their families; and  
5 WHEREAS, Irish Americans initially suffered prejudice and  
6 discrimination upon first arriving in the United States. As the years  
7 went on, Irish Americans became very involved in the community  
8 and made numerous contributions in all aspects of American  
9 society and culture, especially in California; and  
10 WHEREAS, Irish Americans played vital roles in the  
11 development of the United States. Nine Irish Americans were  
12 signers of the Declaration of Independence, and 19 Presidents of  
13 the United States have been of Irish heritage, including John F.  
14 Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton; and

1 WHEREAS, Many people of Irish descent have contributed to  
2 great movements that have helped to shape our country and its  
3 role in the world, including Mother Jones, labor activist; Lucy  
4 Burns, activist in the Women’s Movement; and Senator George  
5 Mitchell, negotiator of the Irish Peace Accord; and

6 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have also played a major role in  
7 California politics. Many governors, legislative leaders, city  
8 mayors, and other public officials who have shaped the  
9 development of California over the years have been of Irish  
10 descent; and

11 WHEREAS, Irish Americans were very involved in the  
12 development of infrastructure throughout the United States,  
13 especially in California. This included work on railroads and  
14 bridges that connected the West to the East. The Irish were also  
15 instrumental in the building of dams, roads, canals, and buildings  
16 that expanded greatly in the late 1800s; and

17 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have made their mark in  
18 pursuit of public safety and have risked or lost their lives carrying  
19 out their duties; and

20 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have served with distinction in  
21 every war that this nation has fought. Many of the outstanding  
22 soldiers who fought for American freedom in the Revolutionary  
23 War were of Irish descent. Since then, Irish Americans have  
24 sacrificed their lives in every other war in which the United States  
25 has fought; and

26 WHEREAS, Many Irish Americans have contributed greatly to  
27 the United States economy, including Henry Ford; Alexander  
28 Stewart, the inventor of the American department store; and  
29 Cathleen Black, president, Hearst Magazines; and

30 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to the American  
31 literary tradition through great authors, including Flannery  
32 O’Connor, Eugene O’Neill, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Mary McCarthy,  
33 Tom Clancy, and Frank McCourt; and

34 WHEREAS, Irish Americans have contributed to American  
35 entertainment through such stars as actors Jack Nicholson, John  
36 Wayne, and George Clooney; actor and comedian Bill Murray;  
37 actress Grace Kelly; actress and comedian Rosie O’Donnell; actor  
38 and singer Bing Crosby; actress and singer Rosemary Clooney;  
39 and actor and director Edward Burns; and

1 WHEREAS, Today, over 44 million Americans claim Irish  
2 heritage, and they continue to contribute to the American and  
3 Californian political, economic, and cultural landscapes; now,  
4 therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature, in honor of the multitude  
7 of contributions that Irish Americans have made to make this a  
8 better country and state for all people, designates March 2010 to  
9 be Irish American Heritage Month in California, and calls upon  
10 the people of the state to observe the month of March with  
11 appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities, especially on  
12 March 17, since everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day; and be it  
13 further

14 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
15 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.